



Homeland
Security

Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655

June 20, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Re: **2019-HQFO-00032**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated and received by this office on October 11, 2018. You are seeking e-mail communications from September 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018, between all political appointees in the following DHS offices: a) The Immediate Office of the Secretary, including the Office of the Chief of Staff; b) The Office of Legislative Affairs; and c) The Office of Public Affairs, and i) The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, including anyone whose email address ends in @ncdenr.gov; ii) The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, including anyone whose email address ends in @dhhs.nc.gov; iii) The North Carolina Pork Council (NCPC), including Andy Curliss, Jan Archer, and anyone whose email address ends in @ncpork.org; iv) The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), including John Weber, Neil Dierks, Michael Formica, Tom Hebert, Nick Giordano, and anyone whose email address ends in @nppc.org; v) Smithfield Foods, Inc., including Michael Skahill and anyone whose email address ends in @smithfield.com or @smithfieldfoods.com; vi) Murphy-Brown, LLC, including anyone whose email address ends in @murphybrownllc.com; or vii) The National Pork Board, including Bill Even, Steve Rommereim, Deborah Ballance, Terry O'Neel, Brett Kaysen, Scott Phillips, Heather Hill, and anyone whose email address ends in @pork.org.

We conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for records that would be responsive to your request. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive records.

While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within OCIO that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, SW, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. Your envelope and letter should be marked

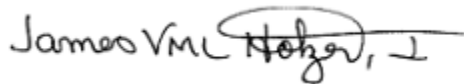
“FOIA Appeal.” Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

You have a right to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) which mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Provisions of FOIA allow DHS to charge for processing fees, up to \$25, unless you seek a waiver of fees. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact our office below who processed your request and refer to **2019-HQFO-00032**. You may send an e-mail to foia@hq.dhs.gov, call 202-343-1743 or toll free 1-866-431-0486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James V.M.L. Holzer, J". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" at the end.

James V.M.L. Holzer
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer